

Application No. 10/755,700

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1 – 32 are pending in this application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 8 as having no antecedent basis provided for the "sub-columns." Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 5, 10 – 14, and 16 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,645) ("Moore"). Claim 12 has been canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

In claim 1, Applicants recite a drop emitting device. The device includes a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the linear array extending along an X-axis, and the columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis. Each columnar array is comprised of a first sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second sub-column of ink drop generators. The first sub-columns of ink drop generators are fluidically coupled to a first ink manifold and the second sub-columns of ink drop generators are fluidically coupled to a second ink manifold.

In claim 11, Applicants recite a drop emitting device. The device includes a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the linear array of columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along an X-axis, and the columnar arrays of drop generators being oblique to the X-axis. Each columnar array is comprised of a first sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second sub-column of ink drop generators.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claims 1 and 11 as the Examiner has not established that the prior art discloses all the limitations of either claim 1 or claim 11 as amended. Specifically, the Examiner has not established that Moore discloses a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel columnar arrays of ink drop generators, wherein

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each columnar array is comprised of a first sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second sub-column of ink drop generators. The Examiner points to elements A of Figure 1. However, Figure 1 appears to show a four-color printhead. Applicants do not see where Figure 1 of Moore shows interleaved columns in a columnar array. Therefore, the Examiner has not shown how Figure 1 of Moore anticipates two interleaved columns and has not established that Moore anticipates claim 1 or claim 11.

The Examiner should allow claims 2 – 5, 10 – 14, and 16 if claim 1 is allowed, as claims 2 – 5 and 10 depend from claim 1 and 13, 14, and 16 depend from claim 11.

The Examiner rejected claims 27 - 30 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanda et al. (US Patent No. 6,502,921) ("Kanda"). Claim 28 has been canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

In claim 27, Applicants recite a drop emitting device. The device includes a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel first columnar arrays of ink drop generators and a second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the second linear array of columnar arrays being adjacent the first linear array of first columnar arrays along a second axis orthogonal to the X-axis. The linear array of first columnar arrays of ink drop generators extends along a X-axis, and the first columnar arrays are oblique to the X-axis. The second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators extends along the X-axis, the second columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis. Each first columnar array is comprised of first and second linear sub-columns of ink drop generators that are interleaved with each other, and each second columnar array is comprised of third and fourth linear sub-columns of ink drop generators that are interleaved with each other.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claim 27 in view of Applicants' amendment to claim 27. Specifically, the Examiner has not established that Kanda discloses first and second columnar arrays wherein each first columnar array is comprised of first and

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